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Mexico Narcotics

MEXICO

DEFENSE SECRETARY COMMENTS ON DRUG GROWING IN COUNTRY

Ciudad Juarez EL FRONTERIZO in Spanish 27 Nov 84 Sec A p 9

[Text] Chihuahua, Chih., 26 Nov (OEM-EL HERALDO)--Yesterday, Mexican Army Div Gen Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, the secretary of national defense, remarked: "Those who claim that Chihuahua is a drug producing state are making a very big mistake; the marijuana which was found in this state came from Oaxaca, Guerrero, Morelos, Sinaloa, Michoacan, Nayarit and Jalisco. The crop in this state is considered to be between 12 and 15 percent of the total, but we shall combat it with all the means at our command."

The division general stressed that, since the day that the concentration camps in which the marijuana had been processed were discovered, many people have thought that Chihuahua is a major drug producer, but they are quite wrong. He said: "I have said that it comes from other states in the interior. Unfortunately, they have used this state, which I love dearly, as a springboard, taking it who knows where."

General Arevalo Gardoqui added: "The Mexican Army will continue to combat the drug traffic, the planting and cultivation of marijuana, etc., with renewed effort insofar as necessary, at the instruction of the president of the republic. The recent raids enable us to claim that the battle against drugs has brought between 80 and 85 percent positive results in our favor."

He said: "With the commanders, officers and troops that the armed institution has at its disposal, there is sufficient backing and we have the capacity to continue, loyal to President De la Madrid, based on the Army's organic law, maintaining calmness in effect, not only in Chihuahua, and locating plantations, as occurred a few days ago in Michoacan, where we found 1,500 tons of marijuana."

The head of the National Defense Secretariat remarked: "We shall continue to keep a constant watch on the borders, as has been done recently in Tijuana, where we found a warehouse containing 7 tons of stored marijuana."

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